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DR. K. B. MENON :—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware of the fact that the Government once refused to consider shifting to Palghat and accepted offers of houses for the location of District Educational Office and whether the Hon. Minister is also aware of the fact that Shoranur is the most central place for the southern region and that it would be inconvenient for the rest of the region to go to Palghat which is at one end? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" In this region, four taluks are included. We find that Palghat has the maximum number of secondary schools located in that taluk. Headmatters and correspondents of secondary schools were consulted. They were in favour of shifting the headquarters of the office of the District Educational Officer, South Malabar, from Shoranur to Palghat. Considering all these facts, it has been decided to shift the headquarters from Shoranur to Palghat."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" As Shoranur has got better communication facilities than Palghat, will the Government continue to have the office at Shoranur itself? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Palghat has got advantages from the point of view communications also. It is connected by train and also by road, to the various parts of the other taluks. Therefore, as far as the question of communications is concerned, Palghat is advantageously situated."

Absorbtion of the staff of the acquired electrical undertakings in Government service

* 1066 *Q.*—SRI S. C. VIRUPAKSHIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Electrical Engineers of the acquired local authorities electrical undertakings were absorbed in the State service; and

(*b*) whether their emoluments are on a par with their counterparts in the State service?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—(*a*) Electrical Engineers who were working in local authority electrical undertakings acquired by the Government have been provisionally taken over to Government service from the date on which the respective undertakings were acquired. These Engineers along with other members of the Madras Local Authorities Electrical Engineers Service are proposed to be regularly absorbed in separate branches of the Madras Electrical Service and the Madras Electrical Subordinate Service with effect from the 13th November 1952.

" (*b*) No, Sir. The matter is, however, under consideration."

SRI S. C. VIRUPAKSHIAH :—" May I know, Sir, why such a discriminatory treatment is accorded to employees serving municipal electrical understandings especially in view of the fact that selection of Engineers for both the Government and municipal services were made by the Chief Engineer for Electricity? "

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THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" That matter has been engaging the attention of the Government. As question of finance was involved in this matter, it was deferred in 1953. We have now taken up the matter again and we are examining the proposal."

Sengipatti Tuberculosis Sanatorium

* 1067 *Q.*—SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state with reference to answer to question No. 550 given on 6th May 1954 whether the Government have since decided to give an yearly grant to the Sengipatti Tuberculosis Sanatorium in the Tanjore district and, if so, what it is?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" In July 1954, the Government sanctioned a maintenance grant of Rs. 10,000 to the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Tanjore, as there was a deficit in the accounts of this institution for the year 1952–53. There was no deficit in the accounts of the sanatorium for the year 1953–54 and the question of sanctioning an annual recurring grant towards the maintenance of this institution does not arise at present."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know whether non-gazetted officers can avail themselves of the concession of free medical facilities granted by the Government in this Tuberculosis sanatorium also? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I presume, Sir, that non-gazetted officers can avail themselves of the medical facilities even in private sanatoria and recover the amounts paid by them from the Government."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" May I know whether the Government will allot increased grants for increasing the number of free beds? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Only maintenance grants are given to Tuberculosis sanatoria on net cost basis subject to a certain minimum fixed by the Government."

Area Committees

* 1068 *Q.*—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the term of the members of all the Area Committees appointed under Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1951, expired on 30th September 1954;

(*b*) if so, why new members to these committees have not yet been appointed; and

(*c*) whether lists of prospective persons to be appointed are pending with the Government for the last three months?